

## Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ST-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-20 EUR-25 IO-13 RSR-01 /125 W

----- 053799

P 101015Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5390

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

UNCLAS COTONOU 1198

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASUP, DM, NI

SUBJECT: WACASC TRUCK

LAGOS PASS WACASC

1. DAHOMEAN CUSTOMS DETAINED WACASC TRUCK COMING FROM LAGOS ON AUGUST 9. AFTER ABOUT ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR DELAY AT BORDER, TRUCK WAS ALLOWED PROCEED TO CUSTOMS AREA IN COTONOU PORT WITH CUSTOMS OFFICER ACTING AS ESCORT. EMBASSY THEN INFORMED OF PROBLEM AND ASKED SEND OFFICIAL TO CUSTOMS OFFICE.

2. DCM, ACTING ADMIN OFF AND GSO WENT TO CUSTOMS OFFICE AT 1500 HOURS WHERE THEY SPOKE TO CHIEF CUSTOMS INSPECTOR. THIS OFFICIAL INSISTED THAT TRUCK WOULD HAVE TO BE OPENED FOR CUSTOMS VERIFICATION OF CONTENTS BEFORE IT COULD BE RELEASED. HE SAID DAHOMEAN EMBASSY LAGOS CERTIFICATION OF CONTENTS OF TRUCK WOULD NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED AS SATISFYING CUSTOMS REQUIREMENTS. (UNDERSTAND NIGERIAN CUSTOMS NOW INSPECTS TRUCKS AS THEY REENTER NIGERIA.) HOWEVER, HE AGREED TO WAIVE PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF APPROVED CUSTOMS CLEARANCE DOCUMENTS PRIOR

RELEASE OF SHIPMENTS. (AS THESE DOCUMENTS INVOLVE SIGNATURES IN THREE MINISTRIES, APPROVAL TAKES THREE TO FOUR WEEKS.) CHIEF INSPECTOR SAID DOCUMENTATION COULD BE SUBMITTED WHEN AVAILABLE.

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IN INTEREST OF SOLVING IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, DCM AGREED ALLOW TRUCK

BE OPENED IN PRESENCE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICER. WHEN TRUCK OPENED, LOWER RANKING CUSTOMS OFFICER DECLINED INSPECT CONTENTS WITH COMMENT THAT IT CONTAINED "DIPLOMATIC GOODS".

3. NOT CLEAR TO US WHETHER DAHOMEANS, AS SIGNATORIES OF VIENNA CONVENTION, HAVE RIGHT TO DEMAND INSPECTION OF OFFICIAL VEHICLE CARRYING SUPPLIES TO DIPLOMATIC MISSION. IF THIS PERMITTED UNDER VIENNA CONVENTION PROVIDED AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICER PRESENT, RECOMMEND WE ACCEDE TO DAHOMEAN REQUEST IN INTEREST EXPEDITING WACASC SHIPMENTS WHICH OFTEN CONTAIN PERISHABLES. ALTERNATIVE OF OBTAINING PRIOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE WOULD BE UNWORKABLE AS WACASC COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE US DETAILS ON CONTENTS OF A SHIPMENT ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.

4. AM REQUESTING WACASC HOLD UP FURTHER SHIPMENTS UNTIL QUESTION RESOLVED.  
ANDERSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WACASC TRUCK LAGOS PASS WACASC  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ASUP, DM, NI  
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